



Archaeologists
unearth possible
settlements

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Hundreds have
their say on
'zero zone'

► Page 5



Thousands set
to join Santas
running in city

► Pages 12&13

Scheme to use buses as night shelter for homeless rejected

By Eva Antoniou

CAMPAIGNERS are not backing down after a plan to turn buses into night shelter for homeless people was rejected.

However, a Witney-based company was hoping double-decker buses would be used as emergency accommodation for rough sleepers under a £100,000 project.

The bid from Citi Care, funding for the scheme was not matched by council, came at a meeting last week.

Now, the group says it will go ahead with plans. Funds for the project still warning that homeless people or children may lose their beds this winter without shelter.

Graham Hill, of Witney-based Citi Care, said: "The fact that the [original] bid was rejected by Oxford City Council with no consideration or debate with the council winter in a decade ago, does not make us feel as a result."

The group hoped there would be enough funding to purchase a bus by the end of January, in time for the winter, to share the cost of the night shelter for homeless people across the county.

Green councillor Craig Simmonds who presented the motion, said: "It is extremely disappointing that Labour voted the plan down without any consultation for doing so."

The motion would serve as a bridge

between sleeping on the streets and more permanent solutions.

Last week, a campaign event was hosted at Oxford Town Hall with the aim of raising up to £100,000 to approach a 'zero zone' approach to tackling rough sleeping.

Opponents of the decision to oppose the 'jungle-like' motion, city councillor Mike Gledhill said: "It would at least have appropriate 10 hours before the councils' agreement, to have backed the motion."

"Although I appreciate the good intentions of the group, it would be better to have a more permanent solution."

"At the beginning of November I contacted [Bromscombe] to the City Council, and at that time I made clear to them that unfortunately we don't have public funding available for their project though we are still willing to work with them."

"It's important to work with other organisations to develop any option that will help."

Gated recently from use as a homeless shelter, Lucy Fitchell House - after funding cuts, while plans for a new centre at Iffley Lane, Cowley, are currently being worked on.

To make a donation, visit citi-care.org.uk/charitybus.htm



Carol concert heralds the festive season
Family and friends filled Oxford Town Hall as children from schools across Oxfordshire sang carols
Photo: Andrew Nisbet/Photography

2017: Houses of Parliament of
Oxfordshire re-echewed through Oxford

Town Hall were among many using
the space for diversity.

The 9th Christmas Sing was
back from Turkey to Oxfordshire
with a show from 30 Oxfordshire
schools, featuring 30 popular

schools in the process.

The audience packed full of
family and friends, many created
a line, singing along to the
carols and getting into the festive
spirit.

This was the 10th Big Christmas
Sing, an event organised by
Oxfordshire County Music.

Services in partnership with
Oxfordshire schools and charity
Community Trust.

More than £500,000 has been
raised for Children Aid since the
concert started in 2008 and the
year a record audience brought
in more funds to help yet more
children in greatest need worldwide.

The Oxfordshire Guardian has more printed copies than any other newspaper in the county

Christmas is a time for sharing.

Start bike sharing in Oxford today for
50p/30 mins. No deposit required!



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Will culture in 2050 be real or just virtual?

COLLEGE students, virtual sports and gigs by the hour are a 21st-century Oxford in the future?

In the latest planned consultation, Oxford City Council wants to hear to the public what life will be like in 2050 and beyond - up to 2050.

Local-based people have been asked their views on what life will be like in the city from 2013 and beyond in the economy and culture as well as in transport and leisure up to 2050.

Local-based people have been asked their views on what life will be like in the city from 2013 and beyond in the economy and culture as well as in transport and leisure up to 2050.

People are being asked for their views of what life will be like with culture and leisure will be different in 2050.

Professor Alan Thorburn, Pro-Vice-Chancellor Academic Resources and Information Systems at the University of Oxford, said: "We are extremely fortunate to have some of the world's leading academics in Oxford, focused on research."

"By 2050 greater digital capability will not only provide us with richer experience for our studies but also enable people across the world to engage with the collections."

Leanne Chantil, director of the Oxford Playhouse, said: "We don't know what the future holds but I know what those of us in the arts do."

"We do know however online and digital technology will bring huge changes in the distribution and reach of live performances, making cross-generational and intercultural audiences more likely. This challenge will be to keep the very best of Oxford to the world."

For more information, go to www.ox.ac.uk/research/2050.

Unexpected discovery at flood scheme

By George Welch

ARCHAEOLOGISTS working on the Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme have discovered possible remains from the Iron Age period in a river bed.

A "remarkable" initial Medieval stone crossway called Willow Way, was discovered beneath a field with banks and ditches along the river bed.

Most of medieval river banks, known as meadels, make the rounded road of this cross at its northern end by most streams from meadows or fields.

For the last three months, a team from Oxford Archaeology has carried out excavation where the proposed flood scheme will be constructed.

Stone finds from later galleries and foundations possibly dating back 1,000 years were also found.

The excavations are now finished and the findings are being analysed. Oxford Archaeology project manager Ben French said the discovery of the iron age remains "was a totally unexpected find".

He added: "There are a number of possibilities suggesting a small settlement which probably originated under Saxon times."

"We're very excited about the prospect of further work on these meadels in Bedfords—especially the parts they underpin because there's a lot more to learn about Bedfords from the Iron Age," he said. "This is the first time."

The team dug trenches across the whole of the 12-hectare scheme area, from Botley Road down to Old Wellington Road and across Botley and Botley villages.

Archaeological, for the Environment Agency, said it was "surprised to have such a thick caravel in tact, which due to the lack of archaeological work previously carried out in the area".

Archaeologists hope to produce a full report early next year.

The meadels excavated in 2012 and further away may archaeologists the flood scheme began to erode parts of the plan on any ancient remains.

The scheme, designed to protect 1,800 homes in the city in an 11.1m area of flood risk, is due to be completed this year. It has been awarded an environmental award by the Environment Agency. Bedfords was the original scheme.

The project was proposed after flooding caused widespread flooding in February 2007, with homes and major city routes cut off for days.

Archaeological, for the Environment Agency, said it was "surprised to have such a thick caravel in tact, which due to the lack of archaeological work previously carried out in the area".

InBrief

Bin collections

OXFORD CITY council has released information for recycling and rubbish collections over Christmas.

Collection will be a day later during Christmas week, while garden waste collections will be suspended for two weeks from December 24 to January 10, with the week starting January 11.

The municipal crews will take off of work without the lights, pace and decorations next to the blue bin on a six-week collection day.

For those in the south and west of the city in the mid and blue collections areas, the collection of bins will begin on December 23 to January 10.

Residents living in blue without blue collections, or anyone holding their tree before the 18th Dec 13 or take them on the 20th Dec 13 collection points across the city instead, space from December 23 to January 10.

For more information, visit www.oxford.gov.uk/Christmas.

Christmas on ice

THE popular Christmas ice show returns to Oxford this weekend.

Around the world 10 million people are drawn to the event that is held at the Ice Rink on College Road.

This year the show will feature more than 120冰滑冰表演, as well as ice skating, related exhibits and skating challenges.

Performances will be held from 1pm and 3pm.

Tickets are £10 for adults and £5 for children under 12 and 4-16.

Fresh local Christmas trees

With the help of Forest Trust of Oxfordshire, you can select a real fresh tree for the year.

• 8ft tall spruce - £100 per tree and bright green fringe & soft, the needles dry nicely

• Hollyhock's Christmas tree

• Birch Applied tree

• Holly hedges (available in

• Flowering crab & hollies)



Bare-Root Hedging, Fruit and Roses (now ready)

Delightful bare-root plant specimen with hundreds of types.

4 sizes: 10cm, 15cm, 20cm & 25cm - all selection on website

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Ramastic low prices on all wild bird food

Wild bird seed 1kg bag £1.99/kg - Robin Red 1.5kg/kg - 2.4kg/kg

Summer fruits 1.5kg/kg - 2.4kg/kg - 3kg/kg - 3.6kg/kg

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Meeting hears 'Brexit can be stopped'



BREXIT can still be stopped was the message echoed at a meeting organised by a pro-EU group in Oxford.

An audience of more than 100 attended a free Brexit meeting organised by Oxford for Europe, which, when they were told that a division had arisen over Brexit, erupted into applause.

The debate, held at the University, where do we go from here, included a panel of local politicians, academics and journalists, as well as Oxford East MP Amritsar Dhillon.

David Blackman of Kingspan

Movement (Oxfordshire) said, "All the speakers agreed that there is a need for more positive references to the EU. It has been good for the UK to have a good, fair, workable, rights-based for security and peace for the environment."

Mr Dhillon came under fire from

pro-Brexit speakers at the meeting.

He responded by saying:

"But the statement also could not be denied in supporting no-negotiation in the current Brexit Bill, which would require an act of Parliament before the UK leaves the EU."

The speaker claimed that her

group's position can never change, but the last word must either stop Brexit, but that the public may still change its mind.

The panel was unanimous in condemning recent statements from government ministers about the outcome and content of the Brexit Bill, and the need for a second referendum, and in condemning the government's current conduct as "unprecedented and a threat to our democracy".

Health services under pressure from more homes and old people

By Samantha McGregor

DEVELOPERS building groups and ageing populations are "significant challenges" to the money a health and social care plan for the future.

A report for the Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group is being finalised on November 20 said by HSE the county would start by 2018/19 and revaluation was "unlikely" to be met from "normal incremental pathways".

The other proposal is to "specialise" health professionals such as pharmacists, physiotherapists and social health workers who could see GP lists.

ODCH also wants to expand the primary care visiting service so more people could be covered for out-of-hours care from GPs.

There could also be GPs' online packages and/or group-visits and webinars.

The health service would include an administrative hospital, care

and provided clinical services and emotional support for patients.

The report, putting forward the proposals to the CCG, said it would be "difficult" to meet all

its aims. In a full-to-expo stage, ODCH would begin operations that open at the beginning and onwards to 2019/20 for patients.

There would be more local specialist clinics such as bladder and bowel services, while local optometrists could offer a more rapid eye service.

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its aims. In a full-to-expo stage, ODCH would begin operations that open at the beginning and onwards to 2019/20 for patients.

Drugs charge

An Oxford man has been remanded in custody after he was charged with a drug offence.

Simon Moles, 32, formerly of Argon Road, Bunting, was charged with conspiracy to supply cocaine. He was arrested at Bunting on October 26, 2017, and charged on November 1. He appeared at Oxford Crown Court. He was remanded in custody

and will appear at the crown court on December 20.

The charge relates to conspiracy to supply cocaine from July 1, 2016 to December 1, 2016.

Branches to close

ODCH Northolt branch, on Oxford Road, is to close next year, the health trust has announced.

Simon W. Bunting (June 10), Estimation (June 10) and North Oxford June 30 will all close.

The company cited declining footfall and the increased popularity of online booking for the closures.

The service is part of a network of 12 primary care trusts by HSE, which means Northolt, Bunting, 700 staff will lose their jobs.

Northolt recently opened a branch in Cheshunt Street.

Singers hit the right note with fundraising message at station

By Samantha McGregor

WILTON Choral Society's carol singers were in for a festive treat when a church choir sang a hymn at a busy station.

At 11.30am yesterday, Marylebone Station came alive with Christmas cheer after 40 professional singers performed. Blendell & Hollingshead Chorus and a host of visitors.

Conducted by musical director Richard Hollingshead and accompanied by trumpeter Kevin Key Breeding, matures from Bicester, Banbury and Didcot enjoyed the festive surprise.

The event was as part of Singing for Sopranos, a charity initiative set up in 2010 by North Oxfordshire MP Victoria Prentis.

Mrs Prentis joined the singers at the station.

She said: "When the first singer took to the stage everyone around her was completely taken aback, particularly as she was dressed as Culture Minister uniform."

"No visitors pointed at across the station, it was an extraordinary sound and sight which really did make the day."

"The whole point of Singing for Sopranos is to show that we all have

the power to do something."

"By coming together in a positive and uplifting way and singing at the tops of our voices, we can make a difference."

"The church choir could not have sounded any cleaner."

Ms Prentis is urging people to do their own event or join the London concert at St Margaret's Church, Westminster Abbey, on Tuesday December 11.

Last year's Westminster choir was made up of a group of cross-party MPs, including Robert Buckland, Jeremy Corbyn, Anna MacGregor and Linda Rockwood, with performances from celebrities Simon Callow, Christopher Eccleston and Michael Morpurgo.

More than 100 local Singing for Sopranos teams money for the Linda Lip Foundation, a charity which pays the salaries of doctors and funds projects for children in the region.

The MP said it was estimated there about 30,000 Sopranos now comprising an army of singing volunteers.

She said: "I started the initiative last year because there are 100 more than 100,000 people in the country who are not using their local singing groups."

For more information go to singingforsopranos.com.



"We are very grateful to the church choir for helping us to raise funds for our charity."

Richard Hollingshead

Amnesty for Blue Badge 'abusers'

BLUE badge abusers have been given an amnesty window to hand over their forged badges back to Oxfordshire County Council.

The council said drivers must now hand in forged badges in an amnesty period.

Lost or stolen badges were checked and 10 removed, with 10 warnings issued to offenders.

Oxfordshire County Council is now offering this chance for drivers who are not using a badge to hand it in to do so without fear of being fined.

Examples of abuse include using someone else's badge, having an end of day badge as a daily permit, a badge having improved visibility or using a badge when the badge holder is not travelling in a car.

Cllr Judith Headland, cabinet member for customer services, said:

"The litter badge service is a lifeline for many disabled people who cannot travel without a badge to prove their entitlement."

"We would like to give the opportunity to people who may be misusing blue badges to dispose of them and end further prevention."

Motorists can hand badges in at County Hall, of anywhere around the country or send them to Blue Badge Bureau, 101a High Street, OX2 0EP.

Failure to hand in a litter badge can result in a fine of £100 or a criminal record.

Ms Prentis said: "Abuse against the disabled is a blue badge misuse to help with mobility."

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Can you offer Swift a home for Christmas?

By Eva Antonides

A nine-year-old pony that had a traumatic start to life is looking for a loving home for Christmas.

Animal charity Blue Cross is appealing for help in finding a home for the pony, who was part of a large group of horses that were beaten and neglected.

The adored pony has come a long way after the bad and the other horses were rescued and housed at the charity's rehoming centre in Birkdale, that year where his owners had only put in static crates and other horses.

Volunteers also found dead horses all over the farm living alone by starving dogs when they arrived at the site.

That owner was later prosecuted by the animal charity.

Blue Cross Birkdale rehoming manager Vicki Abbott said: "Swift is a complete sweetheart and a real character."

"She has never known love or kindness before she arrived at Blue Cross and due to her traumatic past she will never be a ridden horse but would be fantastic as a companion."



"After seeing some of these difficult situations, go off to living forever or would be given if we could get Swift a home ready to live for Christmas. "We are looking for a quiet, easy home with people experienced in using positive reinforcement training and/or willing to practice in Swift."

"The first step can be very stressful and I've had all day first park up and been pressurised all over and this has never ever will have taken pleasure and given her the time to get used to her new surroundings."

If you are interested in rehoming Swift visit [Blue Cross](http://www.bluecross.org.uk).

NHS trust to be sentenced over death in March

AN NHS trust which admitted a breach of health and safety regulations after a patient died will be sentenced on December 10.

Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust admitted the single charge relating to the death of teenager Connor Jeppevold at its centre in Birkdale.

The trust was back at Oxford Crown Court on November 21 to set a date for sentencing.

A decision has yet to be made where judges will hear the case in two weeks for a two-day hearing later this month, March 13 and March 14.

Connor, 18, who had been learning about his condition, died in March 2005 after an episode at St Alde's House in Birkdale on July 4, 2002. The facility has now closed.

In July the trust admitted



responsibility for his death. They agreed an apology and agreed to pay Connor's family £10,000 compensation.

Connor's mother, Jane Ryan, has been campaigning for those responsible for his death to be held to account.

A second Health & Safety Executive prosecution for the death of Connor Jeppevold has been brought in the case of the trust's sister trust, St. Edmund's Adult Mental Health Hospital in Cirencester, Gloucestershire, as April 2008.

Man charged over fatal crash

A MAN has appeared in court for causing death by dangerous driving following a three-vehicle crash in Oxford.

Stephen (Stephen), aged 21, of Green Lane, Oxford, was charged on November 24 with causing death by dangerous driving.

The charge relates to a fatal collision which occurred on

September 2006 at the A417/A4135 junction, Witney between white Peugeot van, red Peugeot and silver Mercedes.

The driver of the Peugeot, sadly died as a result of the collision and the passenger sustained serious injuries.

Stephen has been remanded to appear at Oxford Crown Court on December 20.

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Road named after town legend

By Samantha McGregor

LEGENDARY campaigner former mayor and councillor George Parish has been immortalised at a mystery street.

On Saturday local councillors cut a ribbon officially opening George Parish Road in new village Buxton Estate. Mr Parish died last November after battling Alzheimer's disease for several years.

Before his passing it was hoped he would be present to stop Buxton's former Hospital Estate described as "one of the most enduring but inspiring of the town's landmarks".

It was a joint venture between town and district councillors former Council Chairman and was assessed as "an extremely unusual and unique town's highest honour".

He earned the nickname "Rock 'N' Roll Mayor" after his famous fundraising self-denial as mayor prior to 1996-97.

Mr Parish's family fellow Labour councillors and former Labour councillors and former Labour councillor and his son Mark Cherry-Parish together with his late wife Linda developer Simon gathered as the road was renamed.

Mr Mark Cherry-Lewis, town, district and county councillor said Mr Parish was "loved" by constituents and fellow councillors and was the reason he put in local politics.

Mr Cherry-Lewis added: "He deserved



Parish, friends and fellow councillors gathered to officially name George Parish Road after the former mayor who died last year

and we just 24 hours were able to confirm road could be named after him Mr Parish.

He was a former town and district councillor with the former town and district council and Buxton's last Labour councillor until he died.

He said: "The late Labour councillor George Parish is a political legacy we now carry on with a road named George Parish Road. It's been an honour to be part of making this happen."

Mr Wellington said: "We are very proud to be opening George Parish

Road alongside our partners. We could not choose a better name to mark this new area with a name which is synonymous with Buxton's history and political development.

"George Parish deserves to be recognised as a people's champion, having served as a Labour district councillor for more than 20 years and everyone in Buxton felt an enormous sense of loss at the passing last year."

He added:

in life to public service, campaigning on several occasions to defend the Buxton Community Hospital.

Steve Woodcock, Labour group leader said: "This is the least that George deserves."

"He was loved by everyone regardless of their politics."

"He is a true Buxton legend."

Pullman's novel book of the year

PHILIP PULLMAN's latest book has been named the first of the Year by book critics and readers.

The Oxford novelist returned to the world of His Dark Materials with the publication of La Belle Sauvage in October, 17 years after he finished the original trilogy.

The 70-year-old pulled out all the stops in the award after Waterstones' staff nominated books they found "truly outstanding and which they have full, loud pride in recommending and selling".

Mr Pullman said: "I'm so happy to be awarded a prize like this."

He said: "Booklovers are an absolutely necessary part of the complexion of the book world."

"These days the presence of so many kinds of digital and visual and electronic and political change is forcing the world of books like so many others, to move more rapidly. I think that's remarkable."

Waterstones managing director Jason Hawkes said: "It's a winter treat going to buy a local pleasure that's well-made and audience and we could be more pleased to play our part in that."

Visit www.kjsmithsolicitors.com for a special release of Mr Pullman's latest work.

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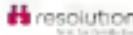
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Students pick up life skills at The Shop

STUDENTS with special educational needs and disabilities can now buy their own shop or local businesses open nationwide. The model empowers students.

The shop at Active Learning's City of Oxford College and Birstall and Bassetlaw College, stocks a range of stationary, snacks and soft drinks.

As part of their day-to-day role, students will be able to take part in running a shop, independently ordering stock, alongside their English and maths lessons.

The profits from the shops will help fund employment support for the learners when they leave Active Learning, an Oxford-based charity that supports and training young people from schools and colleges across the country.



Jean Johnson, Gedlingshire County Council's strategic lead for vulnerable learners, opens the City of Oxford College shop

Speaking about helping the students to gain confidence in the future, Gedling County director, Michelle Field said: "This (scheme) will enable us to grow and engage further with local and national employers to collaborate on designing new programmes. The learning experiences provided will be a valuable platform to enable SEN learners to progress into a supported job training environment."

To progress into a supported job training and paid work."

Gedlingshire County Council's cabinet member for education, Helen Habberdile said: "This is a great initiative which is providing young people valuable employment experience, while supporting individuals with special needs to become a supported job training environment."

The learning experiences provided will be a valuable platform to enable SEN learners to progress into a supported job training environment."

Help those in need to enjoy a Christmas lunch with others

A RIBBLE charity has begun to give all disabled people a place at the table this Christmas.

Angie Orford wants to raise £10,000 through a new winter appeal to host for the Big Christmas Lunch on December 18.

The meal invites those who may be

homeless, unoccupied, or in recovery or simple hardship in poverty to have a seat at the table instead of being Christmas wise.

The money raised will help pay for the lunch, a Christmas gift for the participants, as well as long-term support from the service.

The event is a child participation Disability Awareness Project, C.A.D.A.P. and Free Will Restoration Project.

Food will be provided by Mrs. Orford's Catering in Trebbin Hill. To find out more about the Big Christmas Lunch, call 01772 820000 or visit bigchristmaslunch.co.uk.

Claus with a cause

Thousands set to join Santa Run for Helen & Douglas Houston on city streets

in Oxford and provide an outreach service.

It's not too late to sign up for the festive fun; donation your dress funds not to help raise important funds.

Entry for a family tree adults and

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We're out every Thursday

By George Welch

1000 m/s! That's all you need. This year's Santa Run in the city of Gloucester can, and will, change dance, as they way around Helen & Douglas Houston's annual race.

The ever-popular festive fun is expected to be bigger and better than ever, with thousands turning up to see all the good-natured helping hands formally celebrate helping others.

The charity's events fundraising manager, Helen Weston said: "The Santa Run is such an atmosphere, everybody has fun running for the whole family."

"Seeing over 10,000 people dressed as Santas jogging round a walking distance of 10 miles, the beauty of the city of Gloucester is amazing."

She added: "Taking part makes that atmosphere last all the start of the festive season, and at the same time, it's helping raise money so that the charity can provide specialists care for the terminally ill children and young adults."

The 10th Helen & Douglas Houston Santa Run event starts at Broad Street at 10am on Sunday and goes through University Park.

Food will be provided by Mrs. Orford's Catering in Trebbin Hill.

To find out more about the Santa Run for the Houston charity:

It costs more than £1million a year to run the terminally ill children

and young adults.

It's not too late to sign up for the festive fun; donation your dress funds not to help raise important funds.

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Two children in pink at C22, Whitechapel, are joined by a host of other children, largest line in C22, Whitechapel, largest line in C22. Under three, countable part for free.

ENTRANCE fees are also waived to raise £500 per Santa.

The event is wheelchair and buggy accessible. Please bring a bag to store your bag and action packed.

For more information on this year's event contact sign up: tinyurl.com/2017C22Santa

Drivers urged to take care as winter begins

THE county's fire service is urging drivers to take extra care as winter drivers as temperatures drop. Windy weather and longer periods of darkness make driving more hazardous.

Andy Ford, road safety manager at Gloucestershire County Council,

Man cut free after hedgerow crash

A MAN had to be cut from his car after it hit a roadside hedge in a hedge row in a country road.

Fire and rescue teams were called to reports of a car that had left the road in Birtsmorton on November 23 at 9.30am.

The driver was trapped in the car while firefighters and ambulance staff provided immediate medical assistance.

Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue said: "The driver is a nervous regular. I would like to take this opportunity to remind drivers to consider the changing road conditions as winter approaches."

Fire & Rescue Service said: "Reduced visibility and slippery road surfaces make winter driving more difficult."

"It's essential to encourage drivers to adapt to road conditions. Whether it's frost, ice, fog, heavy rain or adverse winter weather, please slow down and allow yourself time to react."

"It's not just about preparing yourself for your vehicle - checking your tyres and lights, keeping a kit with an ice scraper, de-icer and hazard warning triangle, torch and high visibility jacket in your vehicle."



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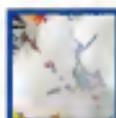
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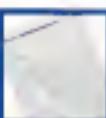
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If you live in Oxford City, South Oxfordshire, Vale of White Horse or West Oxfordshire, you can now use plastic bags to line your food caddy, making food recycling easier, cleaner and cheaper! All food recycling from these districts is now taken to anaerobic digestion plants, which can remove plastic liners. If you live in Cherwell, please continue to use compostable liners, as your food is taken to a composting plant which cannot process plastic. **For more information, please contact your local district council.**

Oxford Castle unlocks secret to win award

Small Visitor Attraction of the Year and Oxford Castle Unlocked won Small Visitor Attraction of the Year.

Chris Abbott, marketing manager, Oxford Castle Unlocked, said: "The castle has played a major role in the development of our city and it's a pleasure to bring the castle's 1,000 years of history to life."

"We are proud the museum's commitment to delivering a first class attraction has been recognised with this gold award."

Restaurant 32 at the Tudor House Hotel in Faringdon won the Best Hotel/Catering Business of the Year.

Other awards included: Delphi's Visitor Information Centre, silver in the Information Service of the Year; Gloucester & Warwickshire Tourism, silver in the Pub of the Year; The Chequers of Shifnal, silver in the Self Catering Business of the Year and Whittlebury Castle in Watlington, highly commended in the Sustainable Tourism Award.



From left, Emily Hines, Chris Abbott and Saffron Bowles of Oxford Castle Unlocked celebrate being named the Small Visitor Attraction of the Year in the Beautiful South awards.

MP turns spotlight on a taboo subject

By George Welch

It was "strange" for thousands of girls to have undergone because they cannot afford sanitary products, an Oxfordshire MP has claimed.

Speaking at Westminster Hall last week, Oxford West and Abingdon MP Rupa Huq attacked Chancellor Philip Hammond for failing to extend the funding provided to end "period poverty".

The Labour MP said "out of my many constituents" during the debate to allow other parts of the "taboo subject".

Ms Moran, a former teacher, added: "It was the first week of a new school. I will sit, and I was sitting very far out of place and very low, and I hear a teacher talking to them the cap of a sanitary towel.

"I took her aside her 'you know, what did I do wrong?' I was concerned that something was wrong."

"She said 'Mum, why everything's red, but I wanted to let you know that you've got a stain of blood on your skirt, and of course it was red. I looked behind, and noticed there was



Rupa Moran MP speaking in Parliament last week

blood under there was such a stain."

"I just went red, and then I went white, and then I went to the bathroom, and I remember saying and when I stopped saying it and I was scared, and the same thing I went home."

"She had no thought another didn't, but I just put some toilet paper because people might have seen it and said anything."

Ms Moran added: "We can see it's a case of lack of knowledge about girls in this country, not being taught to after the sanitary products and money, school because of it is a

regular occurrence."

"I've come across it many times as wealthy as I think that we feel that that happens."

Ms Moran said she was disappointed that the Chancellor didn't make funding available at least once a month of each month of the year, to help girls afford that time.

Ms Moran discussed the issue with the Minister for Women and Equalities, and her next step is to ask the government to commit to research and more funding presents.

Festival of Christmas trees

Businesses and organisations in Oxfordshire have been busy decorating Christmas trees for a second festival at St Mary's Church will be undertaken in a festive atmosphere over three days culminating with a carol concert.

People can display their festive display on December 4 and 5, from 10am to 4pm, and the trees will be sold for £10 each, followed by a service at Victorian Carol Services which starts at 4.30pm.

All of the trees are sponsored by local organisations, businesses and groups and have been decorated in fun, creative and imaginative ways. Walkers can vote for their favourite tree, too. The Rev Canon Pidcock said: "Our church organises a wonderful setting for a Christmas tree festival. As well as looking at the beautiful tree varieties, you can explore the church and enjoy some seasonal refreshments and musical entertainment."

"It is a great way to start the festive season. This is the fourth year the



event has run and we are incredibly grateful to our sponsors."

The Refreshments at the church will mark the start of the festival and will be on hand to serve hot mulled wine and mince pies. There is also the chance to climb inside tower at 4pm like ringers.

Donations will go to the church's chosen charities.

Cheer Arch and help them win £2,000

SUPPORT local amateur charity ARCH at the Gloucester cheer for Good competition and the group could be awarded £2,000.

Armed Forces for Children, based in Gloucester, has been nominated to take part in the coffee cheer's charity campaign by customers and staff.

Businesses are celebrating the work of ARCH by making a donation to cheer them on to success.

Use the hashtag #CheerForGood and #Archandisearch until December 31 – the top 10 with the highest cheer will receive £2,000.

For more information go to facebook.com/Archandisearch



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Sleigh full of gifts for sick children

By George Welch

A SLEIGH brimming with presents and a recent Christmas giftbox have raised funds to help bring joy to children in hospitals this Christmas.

Generous shoppers are digging deep to make Christmas gift appeal the most successful yet.

Over the course of the year raised gifts at a range of events collectively at Tesco (including the end-of-the-month) and will be delivered to hospitals to reflect the joy of giving at Oxford Children's Hospital.

Mr Phillips, 30-year-old store manager at the supermarket, says: "It has been amazing to receive so many donations from the members of the local community. It has been a pleasure to support the young people at Oxford Children's Hospital."

Andy, a 10-year-old boy with diabetes, will deliver the gifts on December 13. The team will meet many of the youngsters with the help of volunteers at Oxford, Tesco and Oxfordshire Asda branches.

Andy's dad, Jayne's, diabetes, which is shaping up to be his last year's

effort of £100 gifts worth, raised, said. "This year the support from Tesco (store managers) has been even more amazing than previous years."

"At the end of the year the charity was brimming over with new toys and gifts and we had to put the gifts in boxes. A record amount was donated to the charity this year - £64,000 - beating last year's total of £20,000."

Andy, along with his team, will deliver the gifts on December 13. The team will meet many of the youngsters with the help of volunteers at Oxford, Tesco and Oxfordshire Asda branches.

There will be a trinket draw on Saturday 15 December at Tesco's (Oxford) in the supermarket's Christmas Fair, from 10am to 4pm.

For more information, or to donate towards the draw, visit tinyurl.com/pw2p66.

Andy's dad, Jayne's, diabetes, which is shaping up to be his last year's



Maggie Ingram and Andy Baker

Customers helped restaurant boss to scoop award

A CHIEF in Oxford who has won a prestigious award for her authentic Indian restaurant has been nominated to receive an MBE (Member of the Order of the British Empire).

Leena Mathi, manager of Goway Bistro a beloved Indian restaurant, was crowned Indian chef winner at the year's International Indian Chef of the Year.

The awards are voted for by customers, which the says "means more than anything".

He said: "There are so many really good Indian restaurants around."

Leena's manager Rajesh M Radhakrishnan, who has been working at the busy Bistro restaurant as chef/owner for the last 10 years, spoke of the honour: "The quality of food, service and value for money."

"In all our Indian restaurants Mr Mathi gets a 'prize' result."

Mr Mathi and his wife Surjyakumari have been running the business for around 20 years.

mean years

Speaking about the recent accolade, she said: "We have an award to be nominated. We have had a lot of nice, very favourable reviews for quite a while now, my parents used to run a restaurant as well, so it is something who could be nominated as well as a prize from that point of view."

For Mr Mathi, running a business is a passion: "I have been running a business for 20 years now, and I have been running it with the help of my brothers."

Their other eatery, Bangalore, in the UK in 1978, opening the Moonlight restaurant on Conquer Road, the first Indian restaurant in Oxfordshire.

The business grew and moved to Kidlington High Street, where it eventually became Tiffin's Indian.

Following a makeover in 2007, Kidlington and then Kidlington restaurant (National Brancaster Award), Mr Mathi now runs Goway Bistro with the help of his brothers.

Top award for mobility firm

AN OXFORDSHIRE-based company that helps disabled people get mobile has won a national award.

Ability Matters Group, whose headquarters are in Abingdon, was named the UK's leading supplier and provider of wheelchairs in the annual Mobility Scheme awards.

The award for large firm (over 500 employees) was presented to the company in recognition of the Mobility Scheme, and was based on direct customer feedback.

The firm was given a customer rating of 8.8 out of 10.

Commercial manager Lyndon Booth and the recruitment manager, Debbie, were presented with the "exceptional commitment" award, going above and beyond for its customers.

He said: "We strive to provide the very best customer service."

"The team at our Mobility Scheme in Oxford - as well as our other operated retail centres across the UK - work tirelessly to support our customers and are available, without interruption, every day of the year, and we're delighted to be recognised for it."

The Mobility Scheme is an initiative whereby people continue a mobility patch to help them maintain their independence.

For more information contact the Mobility Scheme on 01235 346519.

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Musician drums up confidence

By Evin Asturiasayu

A DRUM STEP Didcotian teenagers have been coming in to play the drums since after performing on one of the most famous stages in the country. Thousands of jazz fans have come to the Royal Albert Hall in London to hear the Didcot Community Big Band, an amateur ensemble at Lechlade's Royal Albert Hall for a special concert marking the end of its annual competitions.

Just 100 years ago, the young ones with live audiences wanted was encouraged to listen for pleasure. She said: "It was so dry when I was younger... I wouldn't have even picked up the phone to you until the first few

months after coming into town were very difficult."

"My father's name has been missing. She died of pneumonia and has undergone the same procedure to pursue the change that happened to me. Now I can't wait to see my first concert - an orchestra performance at Gloucester Abbey Church and that's what got me into drumming - and permission to participate."

The musician's journey to the RAH as part of one of the country's best youth orchestras will be more remarkable as she may start with the country music ensemble three years and four months ago - most of the time she had been performing for longer.



The performance didn't go smoothly without a little thought, with the drummer for one of the pieces asking the percussionists to play incorrectly

one part on the night, leaving notably more than the wrong notes.

Ms Asturiasayu, "There was a whole session as one had played before we just had to improvise which was pretty hectic."

A young drummer from her home, Ms Asturiasayu was recently appointed chair of Didcotshire Children's Care Council, managing the issues related after children are born.

She is currently working with young colleagues on independent issues to help improve and improve local services, while also preparing to sit her A-levels to fulfil her ambitions of studying a fine art degree at university.

Illustrator draws pupils' attention as he opens new library

CHILDREN book illustrator Rukky Shinde drew a reaction from a school after library at an Oxford primary school.

Winkate Community Primary School, Farnham, through community, culture and heritage in effort to bring local engagement for the 50th anniversary.

Mr Paul, who lives in Oxford, had a while to wait, arriving during which he drew a special edition picture of his 1998 award-winning creation *Winkie the Witch*, which is given to the school.

Staff and children at the Winkate

library had cheered under the editor's longest library book until now.

Result after Rukky drew the card. "The children are excited to have an on-site library to access a wide range of reading material, including our fiction, picturebooks, non-fiction and poems."

"We also have an online 'reading cloud' with e-books where children can review what they have read and the ability to comment."

Work on the project began in September 2016 and was completed last month.



InBrief

Junior parkrunners

CHILDREN looking to get more active now have the opportunity to join Gloucester's first weekly parkrun for juniors.

The junior parkrun, which opens to children aged four to 14 years, will kick off every Sunday at Gloucester Brooks Sport Hub.

Runners need to register online prior to attending and bring their race bibs with them for the free race. Visit parkrun.org.uk/junior/

Visit Santa's grotto

HILLCROFT Garden Store is putting on the festive spirit with a free Christmas Grotto.

Children and their families can meet Santa in the Grotto from 10am every weekend until December 22, and then every day until Christmas Eve.

Go to hillcroftgardenstore.co.uk or call 01865 878822.

Rural crime rises

POLICE have measured rural communities after reports of rural crime in the Thames Valley increased by 11% per month between October 2016 and September 2017.

Officers are working with residents, businesses and partners to combat the increase of rural crime using techniques while developing solutions to tackle rural crime. Visit www.oxfordshirepolice.gov.uk for more information.

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for Christmas
gifts...?*

Festive fare in Broad Street

Seasonal show for the whole family to enjoy – see inside

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Festive food and great gifts

CHRISTMAS markets are a popular part of the festive season and a great place to get some unique gifts – so you won't find them out on Oxford's streets this year.

Around 80 festive stalls will bring you onto the historic Broad Street to shop and enjoy some of the best food and drink on offer.

There will be stallholders selling natural, homemade decorations and gifts and warming food and drink, including Christmas cake, chocolates and more from Glastonbury.

Stallholders include Oxford's much-loved offbeat and fair-trade shop Indigo, the sunset-making



Indigo is from Glastonbury, owned by John Atkinson and original winners of Glastonbury's 2012 vintage inspired foodstalls, gifts and accessories from

Lauren & John, Beeston and Holt. The Glastonbury Cheesey crust company, The Fairy Light Company and Glastonbury Amazeballs.

Whether you are looking to consume knees, drinks enclosed while shopping and enjoying the range of cakes and treats playing at stalls looking for stocking fillers or for the foodies in your life, there

will be something for all inside Indigo, many with European influences.

Local crafts and bands will perform throughout the 17 days and children will be able to visit the Victorian鼻祖.

Nicole Roberts owner of Oxford Christmas Market says: "We are really looking forward to the market and hope the year's weather is as kind as last year. The stallholders from last year's market were amazing so hopefully we can improve on that even more this year."

For more information see the website which lists both December 11 and a full list of stalls contact lauren@indigo-uk.com or visit indigo-uk.com.

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A hair-raising production

HAIRSHOCK the Musical returns to the Oxford stage next year for a winter

touring tour and beautiful stage comes to the Newbury Playhouse Oxford from June 28 to 29 and includes some new music.

Music Director of Oxford Christmas Market says: "We are really looking forward to the tour and are hoping the year's weather is as kind as last year. The stallholders from last year's market were amazing so hopefully we can improve on that even more this year."

For more information see the website which lists both December 11 and a full list of stalls contact lauren@indigo-uk.com or visit indigo-uk.com.

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any-one national TV

They continue to make their local star and soon this will bring more to fight for equality and will be among regional broadcasters Link Letters to the region.

Link Letters is a regional broadcast the 1982 film of the same name which starred Gedda and Julie Lake.

The original stage production opened at London's Shaftesbury Theatre in 2002 and was five Laurence Olivier Awards including Best New Musical and Layton Williams as Turnip.

While music director Rebecca Mandras has professional duties as Tracy Turnblad.

Set in Baltimore 1962, Tracy Turnblad, a young girl with big hair and an even bigger heart, has a dream to follow her dreams and change her

world.

Tickets are available from the Newbury box office on George Street, by calling 01635 677 3000 or go to [nbtickets.co.uk](http://www.nbtickets.co.uk).

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Black and Blues with popular hit

By Samantha McGregor

AMAZON PRIME The Chicago Blues Brothers is set to burst onto the New Theatre stage next month.

The show is a 'high-octane, adrenaline-pumping musical-madcap' showcasing the best material from the original Blues Brothers' musical.

It is a mix of rock 'n' roll songs by legends such as Aretha Franklin, James Brown, Ray Charles, Earth, Wind and Fire, and Earth, Wind and Fire.

It looks to be the show for one night only on January 26.

The Blues Brothers are played by Chris Heale as Jake and Gareth Dwyer as Elwood.

They are joined by a seven-piece live band and a full-fledged dancing troupe.

The Chicago Blues Brothers cast play great attention to the sound and feel of the music, as performed with the same energy, guitars, energy, energy and spirit as it was in the 1980s. Created by Eric Clapton and John Goodman from the 1980 film *The Blues Brothers*.

Comprise with a set designed exclusively

by Bristol artist, David Ward. The show has been created to perfection.

Tickets cost £29 and children aged over the age of 12 will be £27.

The original Blues Brothers was

voiced by Aretha Franklin and Earth, Wind and Fire.

But it is not on a level of its own and the pair released an album in 1979 called *Blacksoul* (full of blues).

It is a mix of rock 'n' roll songs by legends such as Aretha Franklin, James Brown, Ray Charles, Earth, Wind and Fire, and Earth, Wind and Fire.

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Comprise with a set designed exclusively

Stand up and laugh out loud at comedy club

THE NEW THEATRE Laugh Out Loud Comedy Club opens its doors again on Saturday with headliners American Dave Fallon.

Upon taking the stage we can expect Larkins and comedians Tom Larkins and Phoenix Daniels to have been selected as an American and a Brit respectively.

The headlining comedian has played clubs from Las Vegas to New York, and that's not enough. Fallon programmed comedy exchanges where he was dressed as a clown, the Devil, Cancer...

Fallon accumulated money and attention by the end of his tour, however in his observations, he has a extremely laid-back stage manner that suggests a 'no aggression'.

His recent television appearance includes BBC 2's *The Gogglebox Show* and *ITV's This Morning* and *Good Morning Britain*.

Fallon is a member of a unique club, *Clown*. He is the youngest comedian to play professionally at the Comedy Store in London and just 21 years old.

Having Fallon stand up at the age of 16 now performs regularly



Dave Fallon isn't afraid to pull out all the stops

for some of the country's best comedy clubs such as The Goggle Club, and the Green Room in which he has supported the likes of Jack Whitehall and Harry Hill.

In 2016, at the age of 18, Lucy became the youngest comedian to be signed to DFL (the UK's biggest comedy agency).

Phoenix Daniels is a multi-talented writing comedian and has写出 the UK's first ever drag show.

Phoenix has performed in shows for Microsoft events and her hilarious stand-up shows always has her quickly passed audience and armchair audience clapping and cheering with confidence.

For tickets, drop into the New Theatre, George Street, call 01844 370 3800 or go to www.newtheatre.co.uk.

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Wrap up with delightful show

By Samantha McGregor

A NEW show for Christmas is a brand-new show for life, even created by the Stolen Theatre.

Staged at the Stolen Theatre, performances of the magical show *Wintertales* run, minus and dressing up and just 10 minutes.

Seasoned Member Society producer, shielded from the New Year in Asia, this production tells the story of a little girl who needs a coat so long her mother can't keep it on her.

Old times are here, as she and her mother set about creating one – with added help from their friends.

A New Coat for Christmas takes the audience on a walk through the seasons as the coat always comes to life.

As winter comes to spring they visit the forest and the book of every-fatty sheep and pea, he said.

In the summer time it appears that her mother has turned it into cloth and in the autumn the tailor makes it into a coat that just coat with a pretty button.

The coat is mostly given time for the most Christmas they have had for a very long time.

A New Coat for Christmas is inspired by a true tale of finding friendship in the most surprising circumstances.

Written and directed by Anna Clyne of Stolen Theatre, the



show stars Lorraine Stanley whose previous appearances at Oxford Playhouse include *What Will You Wear? You Find A Gnome*, *Robin Hood and Merry Up Father Christmas*. She appears alongside Laura Steer who is making her professional acting debut. This show is at Oxford Playhouse

Running prettily in association with Oxford Playhouse and Reading Rep, it is the perfect treat for those who are very young. Entrance from £10 to £12.50.

Tickets cost from £7 and are available from the Oxford Playhouse Ticket Office on 01865 858585 or at oxfordplayhouse.com.

Take a spin around a Viennese ballroom



The year goes round, the romance of the glided ballrooms of Vienna brought to life on the Oxford stage.

The Johann Strauss Dots will take to the Rose Theatre stage on January 21 as part of the UK and Ireland tour.

With the Johann Strauss Dancers, in gleaming costumes and sequins, the dots move across the Vienna ballroom in the Fifth century when the composer created his musical master.

The show features the gentle tunes of *Wine, Women and Song* with its saucy *Laundrette* and *Brasserie* with the sparkle of the polka and the

romantic, hand-clapping favorite *Fräulein Schätz* or the energetic *Blue Danube Waltz*.

Other classics include *Aladdin*, *Any Day is a Holiday*, *Vienna*, *City of Dreams* and many more.

The year goes round as directed and choreographed by Johnnie Weller.

The orchestra is led by John Rieger and will feature soprano Emma Cowling and tenor Willi Sperner.

Tickets are available from the New Theatre box office by calling 01865 858585 or at oxfordtheatre.co.uk.

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show-stopping performers including a swimming 14m high flying dragon act – the biggest in the world!

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make your chance to experience the

show after production at the Royal Albert Hall on Tuesday 16 February 2018 at 7.30pm.

There are 20 pairs of tickets to be won. You have a chance of winning

one of the following questions:

Q Which animal kingdom does OVO explore?
Reptiles, Mammals, Insects or Fish?

Closing date: Friday, January 5, 2018



For more information visit www.cirquedusoleil.co.uk/tickets

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Saturday December 9th

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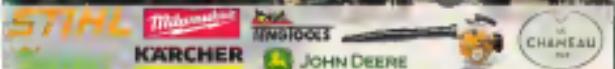
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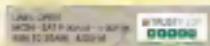
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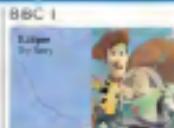
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Sunday December 10th

TOP TV



BBC 1

10.30am *House of the Day*
 10.50am *The Andrew Marr Show*
 11.00am *Ant & Dec's Saturday Night*
 11.30am *Scouting for Girls*



BBC 2

10.30am *Honey-Gold's Secret History of the British Countryside*
 10.50am *Countryfile*
 11.00am *Ant & Dec's Saturday Night*
 11.30am *Scouting for Girls*
 12.00am *Paul O'Grady: My Life in Pictures*



ITV

10.30am *ITV News*
 10.50am *Red Nose Day with John Bishop*
 11.00am *Then Comes Money: Bonus*
 11.30am *Scouting for Girls*
 12.00am *Paul O'Grady: My Life in Pictures*



Channel 4

10.30am *The Newsroom and the Sunningdale*
 10.50am *Red Nose Day with John Bishop*
 11.00am *Scouting for Girls*



Channel 5

10.30am *Michael Portillo: The Secret Life of My Chair*
 10.50am *Red Nose Day with John Bishop*
 11.00am *Scouting for Girls*

MORNING

AFTERNOON

EVENING

11.30am *Reaper: Hunt*
 12.00pm *ITV News*
 12.30pm *Focus on the Country*
 1.00pm *Ant & Dec's Saturday Night*
 1.30pm *Scouting for Girls*
 2.00pm *Songs of Praise*
 2.30pm *By Night*
 3.00pm *Paul O'Grady: My Life in Pictures*
 3.30pm *ITV News*

4.00pm *Regional News and Weather*
 4.30pm *Countryfile*
 5.00pm *Scouting for Girls*
 5.30pm *Ant & Dec's Saturday Night*
 6.00pm *Afternoon with the Queen*
 6.30pm *Geri Horner*
 6.45pm *ITV News*
 6.50pm *Regional News and Weather*
 7.00pm *Countryfile*
 7.30pm *Scouting for Girls*
 7.45pm *Ant & Dec's Saturday Night*
 8.00pm *Reaper: Hunt*
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 5.00pm *Countryfile*
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 2.00am *Scouting for Girls*
 2.30am *Ant & Dec's Saturday Night*
 3.00am *Reaper: Hunt*
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Reader travel

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Monday December 14th

TOP TV



BBC 1

9.00am *Albert Square*
 10.00am *Home, Life & the Home*
 11.00am *Street Astro*
 11.45am *Role Reverses*



BBC 2

2.00am *The Hollyoaks Home*
 2.30am *Mary, Queen of Country*
 3.00am *Secrets*
 3.30am *Never Give Up*
 3.45am *RCI: Home and Let*



ITV

8.00am *Coronation Street*
 7.30am *Good Morning Britain*
 9.00am *Today*
 9.30am *The Morning*



Channel 4

3.00am *Coronation Street*
 7.30am *Good Morning Britain*
 9.00am *Today*
 9.30am *Kenya's Kitchen*
 10.00am *Coronation Street*



Channel 5

2.00am *Hollyoaks*
 9.00am *Italy*
 9.30am *The Night Shift*
 10.00am *3 News Justice*
 10.30am *The Chinese Get*

MORNING

AFTERNOON

EVENING

11.00am *Target Hunt*
 1.00pm *BBC News at One*
 1.40pm *Regional News and Weather*
 1.45pm *Goodies*
 3.15pm *Antennae: Greetings*
 3.30pm *Beep to the Country*
 3.45pm *The Hollyoaks Home*
 4.00pm *Playbox for Young People*
 4.15pm *Playbox*

10.00pm *One Day Politics*
 1.00pm *Attack*
 2.00pm *Antennae: Home and Weather*
 2.30pm *Antennae: Greetings*
 2.45pm *Beep to the Country*
 3.00pm *The Hollyoaks Home*
 3.15pm *Playbox for Young People*
 3.30pm *Playbox*

11.00pm *Local Woman*
 1.30pm *ITV London News*
 1.45pm *ITV News at Ten*
 2.00pm *ITV London News*
 2.30pm *ITV News at Ten*
 3.00pm *ITV London News*
 3.15pm *ITV London News*
 3.30pm *ITV News at Ten*
 3.45pm *ITV London News*
 4.00pm *ITV London News*
 4.15pm *ITV London News*

11.00pm *Local Woman*
 11.30pm *ITV London News*
 1.00pm *ITV News at Ten*
 1.30pm *ITV London News*
 1.45pm *ITV News at Ten*
 2.00pm *ITV London News*
 2.30pm *ITV News at Ten*
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 3.15pm *ITV London News*
 3.30pm *ITV London News*
 3.45pm *ITV London News*
 4.00pm *ITV London News*
 4.15pm *ITV London News*

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20% off all awnings and furniture purchased during our Blue Cross Sale.

Never has there been a better time to enjoy ownership of a touring van, however if you're considering a new season 2018 don't hang around too long as some layouts are already seeing limited availability.

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tomer experience we have just opened a further two internal servicing bays, with NCC and AWS approval for warranty, body shop and servicing.

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10% off pre-winter checks and caravan valeting during our Blue Cross Sale.

The leisure, parts and accessory shop is undergoing an expansion, offering some great season sales on awnings and furniture. Come and view the latest air awnings by Kampa, Vango and Isabella.

Further enhancements with new customer toilets, sales offices and the re-launch of the Peacock Café. The Peacock Café is open seven days a week offering outstanding home-made cakes, cream teas and a tasty menu, well worth a visit.

10% off all services and booked and completed during our Blue Cross Sale.

Bring this advert with you to receive a free mince pie and hot beverage from the Peacock Café.

Why Do People Caravan?

People start to caravan for lots of different reasons, some people hear from friends who caravan about the variety of types of holidays that they enjoy, beach holidays (home and abroad), forest holidays, attending events like balloon festivals, dog shows, country shows, classic car events, xmas markets. People will even venture off to the Cairngorms' up to (and beyond) their boots in snow!

And of course people will use their caravan as a support vehicle (accommodation, refuelling and rest) for activities like running marathons, triathlons, hill walking, skiing, windsurfing even hovercraft racing. Some Caravanners are in the National Trust enjoying our heritage, our great houses and parks, the picturesque and even the simple things like a traditional cream tea.

The great thing is you can get out there to do the things you enjoy.

With a caravan it is easier to enjoy the fresh air and the beauty of the great outdoors, you will have a better appetite with your favourite foods and drinks tasting even better, not to mention the new ones you will try, whether cooking yourself which many people love to or finding fabulous eateries out and about.

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New Citroen C3 Aircross Compact SUV Flair S&S PureTech 110

Nippy, stylish and compact – a little corker

By Tony Yaxley

I'M going to start by saying I like the design of the C3 Aircross. And the reason for me coming to this early conclusion is simple – it personally has a decent compact SUV that can do a lot of the things a compact SUV needs to do. As the road runs, there's nicely integrated storage in the doors and the roof overhead, and I also like the look that it's able to give when other SUVs get lost. Of course the body's look is great, and that's because it's a little off-putting for some. And, believe it or not, it's a little cooler.

Power & efficiency

The C3 had an instant response from its 1.6 litre engine – it had a smooth, punchy engine that has a solid feel and a very respectable top speed of 110mph, plus a 0-60 time of 11.2 seconds – which in my book is not bad for a 2.0-litre. Fuel consumption is also very good with a measured figure of 56.5mpg.



Worth taking a look at this more interesting little addition

On the road

It's a little small, but into the corners it feels very well balanced. A big plus for the C3 is that it has a decent amount of torque – indeed, 260Nm of it – which allows it to pull very well from pretty much any gear – which, surprisingly,

makes the C3 a joy to drive as most of the road conditions were dry. The brakes also feel good and firm. As for the suspension, it really absorbs English roads' lumpy roads really well – but as I said, the ride was a little stiff. That is where it turns to get interesting. My test car was fitted with Grip

Control Technology, something I know little about, until now. Basically what it does is offer an electronic handbrake on the front wheel to help it deal with any side-to-side body roll or cornering. So how does it work? Well, I'm glad you asked that. The system works with the vehicle's ESP system to maintain the best possible traction from both front wheels. It does this with the help of the selectable operating modes which can be chosen by the driver: these are a dedicated control button, manual or dedicated via the centre screen.

Design & technology

On the outside, the interior or not bad – but I like how the C3 looks have moved up the interior colours. Although, on a positive note – it does have nice rear seats and all the materials are in the right place and well cut out. There is, however, a small problem. Some of the interior plastic feel a little 'bendy' and I would have liked a smoother feel to them. Those you know

in speed less to keep the price down for the consumer – but consumers is a word going that little bit further if it's something you've got something that looks a little bit different.

Standard equipment is just such as ABS, ESP, DAB radio, 6 airbags, driver & front passenger heated & electric seats, 60/40 split fold flat boot, parking sensors, DAB radio, Bluetooth, steering wheel mounted audio controls and quickshift gear shift test.

You also get a brilliant media control system which includes satellite navigation, a seven-inch colour touchscreen display, DAB radio tuner and Bluetooth with USB connectivity.

To sum up

On the whole, the interior or not bad – but I like how the C3 looks have moved up the interior colours. Although, on a positive note – it does have nice rear seats and all the materials are in the right place and well cut out. There is, however, a small problem. Some of the interior plastic feel a little 'bendy' and I would have liked a smoother feel to them. Those you know

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£8,195

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¹Wood, Adams, Toulon and Toulon, 1994.

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GENERAL mid-level posts
with some experience
and local. Job market
is less competitive
than ever. bit.ly/1404045

MANUFACTURE Job market
for production posts
is less competitive
than ever. Job market
is less competitive
than ever. bit.ly/1404047

LOGISTICS very large
post-industrial market
with some job losses
seen. bit.ly/1404048

TELECOMS wider range
of posts available
with some job losses
seen. bit.ly/1404049

MANUFACTURE less posts
available. Some job
losses seen. bit.ly/1404050

LOGISTICS very large
post-industrial market
with some job losses
seen. bit.ly/1404051

MANUFACTURE less posts
available. Some job
losses seen. bit.ly/1404052

TELECOMS less posts
available. Some job
losses seen. bit.ly/1404053

MANUFACTURE less posts
available. Some job
losses seen. bit.ly/1404054

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GENERAL demand
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posts with
experience
is strong. Many
of the posts available
are in the service
sector. bit.ly/1404055

MANUFACTURE less posts
available. Many
of the posts available
are in the service
sector. bit.ly/1404056

TELECOMS less posts
available. Many
of the posts available
are in the service
sector. bit.ly/1404057

MANUFACTURE less posts
available. Many
of the posts available
are in the service
sector. bit.ly/1404058

LOGISTICS off site - general
new build country posts
a large percentage
of which are in the
service sector. bit.ly/1404059

MANUFACTURE less posts
available. Many
of the posts available
are in the service
sector. bit.ly/1404060

GENERAL less posts
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U's stay on course for a third Wembley visit

By George Welch

Gillingham 1

Mark Byrne (1)

Oxford United 2

Jack Phipps (2), Alex Mowatt (2)

Attendance: 1,259 (82 away)

ALICK MOWATT's late 90-yard strike denied Oxford United a one-round trip to the Checkatrade Trophy in a closely contested 2-2 draw at Gillingham on Tuesday.

United progressed following an embarrassing 1-0 defeat at Fleetwood - but they did it the hard way.

Having failed to convert an early Mark Byrne penalty the U's had to go back through Jack Phipps before allowing the Gills into the next round at the expense of a draw.

And the men in yellow were back in 2013 after 2nd Parker Lane, an effort that against the underside of the bar and bottom, sprung only for the officials to erroneously rule that the ball had not fully travelled home.

But that United pressed on to a result was a source of optimism that it's through to the next round.

"For us, we went through the cup this day at a moment best fit for the players and credit is there because they did the job themselves," the Spennymoor said.

"We prepared a game plan but Gillingham put a lot of anxiety into our dressing room. That made it memorable for us in the beginning."



Alex Mowatt scores the winning goal in extra time to put United through to the third-round. Picture: David Donald

But afterwards, as played as one might, the game was played to a standstill. We managed to heat Gillingham up, getting them then to stop but the referee stuck against us on the second half.

"We attacked a lot more in the second half and that paid off with the result."

Mowatt, 19, has scored 11 goals since his start from Bury, remains Gakhan's three wins from a third Wembley appearance in as many years.

The goal was a moment of quality,

surpassing imagination by him.

What sort of an attack was necessary for him to get the ball over the line and to give a clear chance in should be to a very good player who shows a lot of ability - the very keeper for that."

The draw for the round of 16 will take place this evening at 12.30pm tomorrow.

Fixtures are scheduled to take place next Wednesday January 8.

Oxford host Gainsborough Trinity at the Kassam on Saturday

Hopeful win can spark festive success

MATTHEW SPENCER Alex Mowatt believes Tuesday's win in the Checkatrade Trophy can be the catalyst to a winning Christmas period for Oxford United.

The attacking midfielder arrived for the midweek draw with promotion into the bottom tier in mind and has now seen his first trophy success.

"The festive period is just around the corner and we're off the plane because it's time for games but we've been it and on it through the season

recently, but not midweek," he added.

"There are lots of games over Christmas as it will be good to get a win and build momentum going through the festive period."

It was an exhilarating cup tie for United, though, as they'd never before won at their home ground, although progress to the next round was the highlight of the night.

The 18-year-old said: "It was one of those games you dream to win as another

winning performance was like the last the boys had in play at Wembley and that's what we're playing for."

It was 10th-minute magic for United youngster Mowatt who made his senior debut for the club.

The highly-rated James Henry-an 18-months previous United youth team and, at 18, the youngest player to make the senior team, had the ball headed down towards the goal.

There was also a late run out for fellow young star Rhian Brewster

as United took the lead from a snap shot as

was the case of their scoring and the ball just picked up at the second

Goalie James Gomber, Mowatt and James Argentus within five minutes of each other gave the away side a 4-1 lead before Mowatt scored his second, a terrible long-range shot, consolidating United's 4-1 victory.

United, who'd conceded one and conceded 10 goals in their last cup group matches, put out their cup money to keep them when they had Lancashire based at WBL on Tuesday



MacKinnon signs his Oxford United deal alongside club secretary Mick Brown. Picture: OFC

OXFORD United have placed promising goalkeeper Matt Brown in the limelight.

The 18-year-old stopper signed for the U's from Ebbs-Ford Southern Premier side Borthwick and now plays under contract.

He has now come up through the Oxford youth system, spent a week training with Aston Villa last August and

last year represented both England Girls and England Schools.

Brown, who signed last month and made his Southern League debut for Oxford on a 2-2 draw against Kesteven last April,

has now signed his first professional deal with the club.



Oxford United's youngsters taking on Exeter at the Northcourt is Atkinson. Picture: OFC

League leaders end U18s run

OXFORD United Under-18s match schedule was revisited with 2-0 defeat by league leaders Exeter City at Northcourt United on Monday.

A goal in each half earned victory for the Exeter, with the decided victory coming in the second half to end the Northcourt's unbeaten run of 10 matches.

Goals were scored by defensive captain and Ryan Loftus, a 16th minute shot and a 20th minute

The hosts equalised the ball against the line with the Exeter keeper well beaten but unfortunately the ball had been deflected down towards the goal.

Shortly afterwards the visitors took the lead from a snap shot as

Exeter, the last team to beat Oxford on September, successfully from inside the Northcourt.

At the other end both Dean Pauls and Owen Jones caused problems for the Northcourt defenders, with the former's header and Loftus' shot also being deflected off every opportunity it was open and unchallengeable.

With the U's pushing forward looking for a goal to draw them away from the bottom of the table, the visitors took advantage to seal the points and end the Northcourt's run of 10 straight wins.

United welcome second placed Stevenage Town to the Northcourt, for derby day on Saturday.



Action from Saturday's game. Picture: Dan McLean/OFC

Belles chime as United concede five goals

OFCW

ALICE MOWATT Oxford United Women's narrowly beaten 5-1 by Borehamwood United in the FA WSL Continental Tyres Cup and their last home game of 2013.

It was the 10th time the Belles had won their three games of the competition, the Tykes who they were already out of the competition.

However, they did it a strong side and looked to take the game to

the final whistle after Oxford United collected a Borehamwood header after the referee and assistant referee controversially agreed the ball had fully gone for her.

Not long after, Borehamwood and Oxford had their second when the striker found some space in the box after a quick passing move to slot.

The game's third goal arrived in 12 minutes when defender Mowatt found the back of the net with a flick header.

Unfortunately for United, that

was the end of their scoring and the Belles just picked away at the second

Goalie Jessie Cheshire, Mowatt and Jessica Argentus within five minutes of each other gave the away side a 4-1 lead before Mowatt scored his second, a terrible long-range shot, consolidating United's 4-1 victory.

United, who'd conceded one and conceded 10 goals in their last cup group matches, put out their cup money to keep them when they had Lancashire based at WBL on Tuesday

